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TERMINOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF SENSATION.

There is at the present time a great deal of confusion in the scientific terminology of sensory processes. In some cases several words have been manufactured which are used to signify the same thing, and some of the terms are quite indefensible. *Acoumeter* and *audiometer* are examples of one such case. In other cases the same term has been used in entirely different meanings. Perhaps the worst examples of this confusion are the terms *hemeralopsia* and *nyctalopsia*, each of which is currently used to signify both day-blindness and night-blindness. The unauthentic usage of these words possibly results from an erroneous impression that the *-al* is privative. A large list of illustrations might be given.

I suggest the following list of terms to cover a part of the field. Practically all are in use, with the exception of those included in 6, 7, and 8. In these cases innovation is absolutely necessary, and the forms there given are analogous to the forms under the other headings, and are from the roots suggested by Professor C. W. E. Miller as the most logical. The table is not complete, but the terms to cover the remainder of the field should be constructed in accordance with the principles applied here, which are drawn from the best present usage.

1. Taste *geus(ia)* a-, para-, hypo-, hyper-; -imeter, -ic.
2. Smell *osm(ia)* an-, par-, hyp-, hyper-; -ometer, -etic.
3. Sight *ops(ia)* an-, par-, hyp-, hyper-; -imeter, -ic.
4. Hearing *acu(sia)* an-, par-, hyp-, hyper-; -imeter, -sic.
5. Touch *(h)ap(hia)* an-, par-, hyp-, hyper-; -tometer, -tic.
6. Warmth-sense *thalpo(sia)* a-, para-, hypo-, hyper-; -meter, -tic.
7. Cold-sense *rhigo(sia)* ar-, para-, hypo-, hyper-; -meter, -tic.
8. Tickle-sense *gargal-esthe(sia)* -an-, -par-, -hyp-, -hyper-; -tic.
9. Hair-sensibility *tricho-esthe(sia)* -an-, -par-, -hyp-, -hyper-; -siometer, -tic, -sis.
10. Muscular-sense *kinesthe(sia)* a-, para-, hypo-, hyper-; -siometer, -tic.
11. Body-sense *coenesthe(sia)* a-, para-, hypo-, hyper-; -tic, -sis.
12. Pain-sense *alge(sia)* an-, hyp-, hyper-; -siometer, -tic, -sis.
13. Vibration-sense *palmesthe(sia)* -an-, hypo-, hyper-; -tic.

The termination *ia* is of course used only with a prefix. It would be perfectly legitimate to use the suffix *is* to indicate the sense itself, in all cases (as is done in *algesis*, for example), as we are not bound strictly to the Greek precedent; but as a matter of fact no one has ventured to do this.

Special attention might be called to the use of *acusic* and *opsic* to designate the sensational facts; in place of *optic* and *acoustic*, which have special significance. It is very desirable also that the special prefixes *chrom-*, *achrom-*, *monochrom-*, *dichrom-*, etc.; and *hemian-*, *hemeral-*, *nyctal-*, and *ambly-* should be used with *opsia*, and not with *opia*, as the latter combination is illogical, although it is found at present about as often as is the other usage. In place of the color-prefixes indicated, *chromat-*, *achromat-*, etc., are frequently used, but there seems to be no sufficient reason for the *-at-*, and it should be dropped to bring these words into harmony with others already established.

Ope is used as a combining form to indicate either the possessor of a certain sort of eye (*myope*, *emmetrope*, etc.) or the subject of a certain form of disorder of sensibility (*amblyope*, *nyctalope*, etc.). This usage is well established and gives rise to no confusion.

The prefix *dipl-* is uniformly applied to *opsia* (although some authors persist in writing *diplopia*!) and to *acusia*. It might legitimately be applied to *aphia* also. *Ambly-* has been applied to *acusia* in place of *hypo*, but the usage does not seem commendable. *Amblyacusia* might, however, be logically applied to the lack of accuracy in pitch discrimination.

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